BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Service BC
Ministry of Management Services

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 05-17* *April 29, 2005*

- **BC leads western Canadian economic boom in 2004**
- **Goods sector accelerates; services remain robust**
- **BC manufacturers more optimistic in second quarter**

The Economy

- **British Columbia's economy picked up speed in 2004, expanding 3.9% after increasing 2.5% in the previous year.** Although this was the first time since 1987 that BC has outpaced all the other provinces in terms of economic growth, Alberta (+3.7%) and Saskatchewan (+3.5%) were not far behind, as most of western Canada experienced an economic boom. Newfoundland fell back to last place (from first in 2003), as labour disputes and oil production difficulties put the brakes on that economy, which contracted (-0.7%) for the first time since the mid-1990s. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Domestic demand for goods and services (+4.9%), together with robust export growth (+4.9%) contributed to BC's strong showing last year.** Business investment advanced 11.7%, largely because of a flourishing housing market. Spending on residential structures increased 14.8% for the second year in a row. Investment in machinery and equipment rose 20.0%, but spending on non-residential structures slumped (-4.2%). Consumer demand expanded 4.1% in 2004. Strong demand for machinery and consumer goods produced outside the province helped boost imports by 6.4%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **On a *per capita* basis, real GDP in British Columbia increased 2.8% during 2004, more than in any other province except Saskatchewan (+3.4%).** Although this was the third consecutive year in which BC's real per capita GDP has grown faster than the Canadian average (+1.8%), it has been below the national level since 1997. The size of the gap is shrinking, but remains relatively large (real per capita GDP was $33,072 (constant 1997 dollars) in BC last year, compared to $35,266 nationally).

  Among the provinces, Alberta ($41,953) had the highest real per capita GDP in the country, followed by Ontario ($38,073) and Saskatchewan ($33,269). BC was ranked fourth among the provinces. Newfoundland ($29,861), which traditionally has trailed the other provinces, has moved ahead in recent years, and in 2004 was ranked seventh even though the economy contracted. PEI ($24,735) is now at the back of the pack. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **Real *per capita* after tax income in BC increased 1.2% to $20,002 (*in constant 1997 dollars*) last year, the most notable increase since 2000.** Alberta ($23,480) and Ontario ($21,649) continued to lead the way, with BC ranked third among the provinces. However, after-tax incomes in British Columbia remain below the national average ($20,606).

  Personal after-tax income is substantially higher in the three territories, ranging from $28,382 in Yukon to $33,826 in NWT. This reflects higher wages paid to residents of the north, as well as other incentives intended to help offset the high cost of living in remote areas of the country. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **British Columbia's strong economic growth last year was boosted by the goods sector (+6.1%), which expanded nearly twice as fast as services (+3.3%) in 2004.** Construction (+8.6%) and manufacturing (+7.8%), which together account for more than two-thirds of GDP in the goods sector, both made stellar gains. An active market for new housing boosted the demand for wood products, and kept the residential construction industry going full steam ahead for the third year in a row. Last year, the residential construction industry expanded 19.6%, marking the third straight year in which it has grown more than fifteen

Report Provincial electoral districts: all politics is local

Did you know...
One in 10 severe injuries occurs in the workplace. The leading cause of work-related trauma is unintentional falls.

percent. The wood industry grew 16.0% as sawmills were kept busy supplying lumber to their customers, but pulp, paper and paperboard mills did not fare as well (+2.4%). Logging (+15.9%) and agriculture (+5.6%) made solid gains. The mining, oil & gas extraction expanded 2.6% as production rose only modestly despite soaring prices.

In the service sector, wholesale trade (+8.0%), transportation & warehousing (+7.2%) and retail trade (+4.9%) all had a good year in 2004. BC's biggest industry–finance, insurance & real estate–expanded 3.8%. However, the health care & social assistance industry contracted (-1.8%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **BC manufacturers have a much more optimistic outlook for the second quarter of 2005 than they did earlier in the year.** Thirty percent *(seasonally adjusted)* of manufacturers said they expect to increase production, while only 16% expected to see declines. The balance of opinion was 14% (compared to 0% in the last survey) in support of increased production, the highest level since the third quarter of 2004.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of British Columbians collecting regular Employment Insurance benefits fell 2.0% (seasonally adjusted) to 54,720 in February.** However, the number of unemployed workers increased in the same month. Nationally, the number of regular EI beneficiaries rose 0.8% to 525,080 in February. All but three provinces and territories reported increases. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Organic Fruits and Vegetables

- **Organic farming has taken root in BC, with proportionally more land devoted to this method of raising crops than in any other province.** There were 260 organic farms, accounting for 8.7% of the total vegetable area and 3.2% of the land used for fruit farming in BC in 2003. Apples were the most common fruit grown on organic farms in the province during the period from 2001 to 2003, followed by pears and plums.

  Although Ontario had fewer organic farms (175 in 2003) than BC, it had the most actual acreage being used for organic production. Quebec had 115 organic farms in 2003.

  Data Source: SC Catalogue 21-004-XIE

The Nation

- **Canada's economy expanded 0.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in February.** Service industries (+0.5%) made gains but the goods sector lost ground (-0.2%).

  Most of the decline in the goods sector was attributable to mining and oil & gas extraction (-1.3%) and utilities (-0.8%). Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting (+0.2%) and manufacturing (+0.2%) industries fared better. The service sector was boosted by robust wholesale (+1.4%) and retail (+1.7%) activities, but growth was wide-spread with all industries except health care & social assistance (0.0%) expanding. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canadian manufacturers' prices climbed 2.1% in March compared to the same month in 2004.** Petroleum and coal products (+26.3%) continued to have a strong influence on the 12-month change, while prices for most other products were flatter. Prices for primary metals (+8.7%) and fabricated metals (+7.5%) were also significantly higher. Due to the appreciation of the Canadian dollar, manufacturers received much less (-4.5%) for lumber & wood products in March.

  Raw materials prices surged 14.0% in March compared to the same month of 2004, driven mainly by a 31.5% jump in the price of mineral fuels. Crude oil was a large part of the boost in the cost of mineral fuel as the continuing strong demand and supply concerns drove prices up 39.5%. The raw material price index excluding mineral fuels would have decreased 0.6% instead of rising 14.0%.

  BC softwood lumber prices plunged 5.7%, with both coastal (-15.4%) and interior (-1.4%) producers receiving substantially less for their products than in March 2004. Prices for BC pulpwood chips were down 3.7%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

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Provincial Electoral Districts: All politics is local

The same but different

Canada is one of the most diverse countries in the world. First Nations heritage, European settlement, and westward expansion fed by immigration created the country and urban centres that now draw a more exotic mix of migrants. A census is taken at five-year intervals, which gives us a socio-economic snapshot of the evolving country. Since virtually everyone responds to the census, it is possible to divvy the country up into increasingly numerous parts.

When we move from the composite national profile to provincial profiles, we encounter variations that differentiate the provinces from the national averages. Likewise, any division of the province into parts will show a wider range of variability among them. With this in mind, we will look at a number of demographic characteristics in the provincial ridings based on the results of the 2001 Census. It serves our purposes here to look only at the ridings at the extremes of variability. These tables, as well as more detailed tabulations featuring the full set of ridings, appear on our web site at:

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/profiles/PED.htm

Issues will resonate to varying degrees in each riding depending on local circumstances, sensibilities and experiences. Sometimes what sets these apart can be gauged by socio-economic stratification, and that is the basis of the presentation that follows. The spectrum of sensitivity to issues can make for unexpected alliances of otherwise remarkably different regions. This analysis will bring several ridings into focus on any given characteristic. If, instead, you want to know more about any individual riding, you will find an 18-page profile on each of the 79 ridings on our web site at:

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/profiles/csd_txt.htm#PED_mark

Methodology

Readers should note that the Provincial Electoral District (PED) census characteristics in this document and published elsewhere by BC STATS have been derived by aggregating census data published by Statistics Canada for many smaller areas. All census geographies, including the smallest areas (known as Dissemination Areas DA), are subject to rules regarding suppression and random rounding that guarantee the protection of privacy of individual responses. As a result, the information should be regarded as an approximation, albeit a very good approximation of the true values, since a number of areas with small populations (generally below 40 persons, less than 250 persons for income-related questions) or poor response have been excluded from the calculations.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Regions/ped.htm

Growing pains

Population growth or decline can challenge a community's ability to adjust when the change is relatively large. Just as Canada has become a highly urbanised society, so has British Columbia. It's not just that rural areas are not growing as fast as some urban areas—some are losing population, while other mostly urban centres are growing at challenging rates.

The strongest growth is highly localised to the Lower Mainland, but it is not evenly distributed throughout the region. The leafy neighbourhoods of Vancouver and the inner communities are not much changed. Only Vancouver-Burrard, with development in Yaletown and Coal Harbour, and other inner communities with room for densification or new development, join the fringe suburbs that have sprouted development, to top the list.

It's a whole different story along the outer coast, the Kootenays and along the Yellowhead highway.

Stressed up and down	Population, 2001*	Population percentage change, 1996-2001
Canada	30,007,094	4.0
British Columbia	3,907,738	4.9
45 Port Moody-Westwood	61,637	24.5
61 Surrey-Tynehead	59,081	24.3
50 Richmond Centre	56,792	22.7
60 Surrey-Panorama Ridge	53,289	22.2
64 Vancouver Burrard	64,046	20.9
57 Surrey Cloverdale	49,122	19.2
59 Surrey Newton	50,281	16.4
2 Abbotsford-Mount Lehman	55,493	14.5
5 Burnaby Edmonds	55,741	11.7
33 New Westminster	54,656	10.8
. . .	. . .	. . .
32 Nelson-Creston	44,131	-2.2
76 West Kootenay-Boundary	44,794	-2.6
79 Yale Lillooet	37,197	-2.9
13 Columbia River-Revelstoke	33,005	-3.1
48 Prince George North	36,696	-4.5
35 North Island	53,657	-5.9
56 Skeena	32,021	-6.4
47 Prince George-Mount Robson	35,741	-7.4
42 Peace River South	28,097	-9.2
34 North Coast	27,992	-11.6

* Population based on Dissemination Area and blockface data.

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Still married

On the whole, British Columbia is quite similar to Canada on this one—approximately 50% are married—but look around, and differences appear. Interestingly, the top and the bottom of the list (the only parts we see) are dominated by urban ridings in the Lower Mainland and Victoria. All the other ridings are closer to the average.

At the top of the list we find the places where traditional families with children are the norm. Think cul-de-sacs with street hockey and a bike or two lying in the driveway.

Step to the bottom of the list and you are more likely to find singles—either just starting out or finishing up after the departure or demise of a spouse. You'll also find childless couples, more likely to be living common-law.

The marrying kind	Legally married (and not separated)	Legally married as percent of pop 15+ years old
Canada	12,011,680	49.5
British Columbia	1,626,230	50.8
40 Okanagan-Westside	23,845	61.0
60 Surrey-Panorama Ridge	24,570	60.3
2 Abbotsford-Mount Lehman	25,275	59.3
61 Surrey-Tynehead	27,280	59.1
57 Surrey-Cloverdale	23,110	59.0
18 Delta South	21,605	58.9
21 Fort Langley-Aldergrove	26,050	58.8
59 Surrey-Newton	22,310	58.4
17 Delta North	23,795	58.3
45 Port Moody-Westwood	28,260	57.9
. . .	. . .	. . .
67 Vancouver-Hastings	20,310	42.8
36 North Vancouver-Lonsdale	17,840	42.7
47 Prince George-Mount Robson	11,855	41.4
33 New Westminster	19,180	40.8
72 Vancouver-Point Grey	18,420	37.3
75 Victoria-Hillside	15,375	36.1
65 Vancouver-Fairview	16,175	32.8
74 Victoria-Beacon Hill	14,390	31.9
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	13,400	28.3
64 Vancouver-Burrard	15,405	25.2

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

It's not so lonely

British Columbia and Canada again measure up much the same when we focus on seniors living alone. But some ridings are more than double the provincial level and some are less than half. By and large, the list-topping ridings are to be found in the Lower Mainland and in Victoria.

At the top of our list we have large concentrations of seniors in ridings more likely to have self-contained neighbourhoods with easy access to shops, services and transit. The large concentrations suggest these places are a magnet for seniors wanting to extend their years of self-reliance and independence, and their sheer numbers give them consumer and political clout.

At the bottom of the list, a different dynamic may be at play. These largely 'ethnic' ridings likely offer their seniors the comfort of a respectful place in an extended family.

Seniors living alone	Persons 65 years and over living alone	Percent of persons aged 65 and over living alone
Canada	1,040,020	28.9
British Columbia	143,395	28.5
64 Vancouver-Burrard	3,610	57.3
74 Victoria-Beacon Hill	4,685	49.7
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	3,130	47.9
65 Vancouver-Fairview	2,185	41.7
33 New Westminster	2,945	41.5
75 Victoria-Hillside	2,930	41.5
36 North Vancouver-Lonsdale	2,335	39.4
72 Vancouver-Point Grey	1,960	36.5
47 Prince George-Mount Robson	1,290	35.5
30 Nanaimo	2,515	34.5
. . .	. . .	. . .
67 Vancouver-Hastings	1,475	20.2
59 Surrey-Newton	745	19.2
57 Surrey-Cloverdale	1,045	18.5
66 Vancouver-Fraserview	1,190	18.2
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	1,185	17.3
60 Surrey-Panorama Ridge	760	16.3
17 Delta North	655	16.2
61 Surrey-Tynehead	760	15.4
68 Vancouver-Kensington	1,045	15.4
51 Richmond East	745	13.5

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Just like home

Here on our tour of census characteristics we come across the first real difference between Canada and British Columbia. Nationally, immigrants make up 18 percent of the population. Here in British Columbia, the figure is 26 percent. Just as immigrants favour BC among Canadian destinations, they favour the Lower Mainland among British Columbia's regions. In some ridings immigrants form the majority, and their communities tend to be cohesive. That's clout.

Get out to the far-flung ridings of the province and things are dramatically different. Issues that can touch or motivate most residents in some Lower Mainland ridings will not cause a ripple up north—and vice versa.

Here by choice	Total immigrants	Immigrants as a percent of population
Canada	5,448,480	18.4
British Columbia	1,009,820	26.1
50 Richmond Centre	34,205	60.7
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	31,870	59.1
66 Vancouver-Fraserview	30,360	58.2
70 Vancouver-Langara	29,780	56.7
68 Vancouver-Kensington	30,325	56.3
51 Richmond East	29,455	53.2
7 Burnaby-Willingdon	26,785	51.0
5 Burnaby-Edmonds	26,760	49.0
52 Richmond-Steveston	24,655	47.7
67 Vancouver-Hastings	26,180	46.5
. . .	. . .	. . .
76 West Kootenay-Boundary	4,640	10.5
9 Cariboo North	3,775	10.5
55 Shuswap	4,930	10.4
13 Columbia River-Revelstoke	3,290	10.2
47 Prince George-Mount Robson	3,565	10.1
19 East Kootenay	3,585	9.4
48 Prince George North	3,195	8.8
23 Kamloops-North Thompson	4,005	8.7
42 Peace River South	2,030	7.4
41 Peace River North	2,085	6.7

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Going to town

Immigrants arriving in the five years prior to the Census were highly likely to choose "the big city" as the place to start in their adopted country. Over time, some will choose to disperse, but initially they choose to congregate in the Lower Mainland. This trend has been visible for some time, and the result has been nothing short of transforming for their chosen destinations.

It might be natural to assume that these ridings are culturally diverse as a result, but on occasion it is a single immigrant community that dominates the landscape. To explore this dimension in detail you must look to the set of Provincial Electoral District (PED) profiles found on our website. See the charts on page 3 and the table on page 7 in any riding that interests you.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/ ...
profiles/csd_txt.htm#PED_mark

Newest arrivals seek urban vistas	Total recent immigrants	Recent (last 5 years) immigrants as a percent of population
Canada	963,320	3.3
British Columbia	191,425	4.9
50 Richmond Centre	11,195	19.9
7 Burnaby-Willingdon	10,075	19.2
70 Vancouver-Langara	8,425	16.1
5 Burnaby-Edmonds	8,235	15.1
45 Port Moody-Westwood	7,925	12.9
8 Burquitlam	6,570	12.3
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	6,520	12.1
51 Richmond East	6,630	12.0
66 Vancouver-Fraserview	6,160	11.8
52 Richmond-Steveston	5,975	11.5
. . .	. . .	. . .
23 Kamloops-North Thompson	290	0.6
35 North Island	295	0.6
3 Alberni-Qualicum	280	0.6
16 Cowichan-Ladysmith	270	0.6
30 Nanaimo	275	0.6
22 Kamloops	255	0.5
76 West Kootenay-Boundary	215	0.5
55 Shuswap	210	0.4
47 Prince George-Mount Robson	135	0.4
48 Prince George North	135	0.4

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Big audience for some locals

Here's another divide between the Lower Mainland ridings and just about anywhere else in the province. In some urban ridings fully a third of the population may be speaking a language other than English (or French) at home. This is worth considering if you have a message to communicate.

When in my house . . .	Non-official languages are spoken at home	Percent of population with home language other than English or French
Canada	1,693,125	5.7
British Columbia	339,230	8.8
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	18,200	33.7
66 Vancouver-Fraserview	16,330	31.3
68 Vancouver-Kensington	16,830	31.3
50 Richmond Centre	17,090	30.3
70 Vancouver-Langara	15,705	29.9
67 Vancouver-Hastings	15,270	27.1
51 Richmond East	13,920	25.2
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	13,195	25.1
7 Burnaby-Willingdon	12,660	24.1
59 Surrey-Newton	11,460	22.8
. . .	. . .	. . .
53 Saanich North and the Islands	435	0.8
19 East Kootenay	265	0.7
23 Kamloops-North Thompson	335	0.7
14 Comox Valley	375	0.7
27 Malahat-Juan de Fuca	320	0.6
13 Columbia River-Revelstoke	205	0.6
32 Nelson-Creston	240	0.5
55 Shuswap	265	0.5
46 Powell River-Sunshine Coast	235	0.5
42 Peace River South	145	0.5

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

A change of face

Just as the tide of European immigration gave way to the Asian wave, so has the growth of visible minorities. Visible minorities are the majority in the top ten ridings of our list. You should note that, by definition, this does not include the Aboriginal population.

This comes as no surprise if you've been reading along. Many will be the same immigrants that we know have chosen overwhelmingly to live in the urban ridings of the Lower Mainland.

The interior ridings that make up the bottom of the list lend an astonishing truth to the term visible minority. The numbers and percentage are noticeably few.

Urban kaleidoscope	Total visible minority population	Visible minorities as a percent of population
Canada	3,983,845	13.4
British Columbia	836,440	21.6
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	40,085	74.4
68 Vancouver-Kensington	38,250	71.1
66 Vancouver-Fraserview	36,745	70.5
70 Vancouver-Langara	34,795	66.2
50 Richmond Centre	35,835	63.7
51 Richmond East	34,465	62.2
59 Surrey-Newton	27,365	54.5
67 Vancouver-Hastings	30,040	53.3
60 Surrey-Panorama Ridge	27,365	51.8
5 Burnaby-Edmonds	28,295	51.7
. . .	. . .	. . .
19 East Kootenay	1,090	2.9
4 Bulkley Valley-Stikine	880	2.8
23 Kamloops-North Thompson	1,250	2.6
46 Powell River-Sunshine Coast	1,050	2.4
76 West Kootenay-Boundary	1,035	2.3
13 Columbia River-Revelstoke	730	2.2
42 Peace River South	560	2.0
32 Nelson-Creston	745	1.7
41 Peace River North	520	1.6
55 Shuswap	790	1.6

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Home and native land

The First Nations heritage of British Columbia is a living link to the past and a partner to honour as we head into the future.

The range of response in our top ten ridings is from 10 percent to 40 percent. These ridings comprise virtually the entire north and central mainland and the north and west of Vancouver Island.

The numbers at the bottom are small, but that does not mean that the issues affecting Aboriginals are unimportant in any riding in the province.

Here forever	Total identifying as Aboriginal	Aboriginals (identity) as a percent of population
Canada	976,310	3.3
British Columbia	170,025	4.4
34 North Coast	10,430	39.8
4 Bulkley Valley-Stikine	6,855	21.9
79 Yale-Lillooet	6,815	18.9
56 Skeena	4,520	14.4
42 Peace River South	3,930	14.1
10 Cariboo South	4,815	13.9
47 Prince George-Mount Robson	4,635	13.1
41 Peace River North	3,515	11.2
3 Alberni-Qualicum	5,285	10.7
35 North Island	5,550	10.4
. . .	. . .	. . .
65 Vancouver-Fairview	605	1.1
54 Saanich South	535	1.1
70 Vancouver-Langara	515	1.0
72 Vancouver-Point Grey	470	0.9
52 Richmond-Steveston	435	0.8
38 Oak Bay-Gordon Head	395	0.8
51 Richmond East	390	0.7
66 Vancouver-Fraserview	355	0.7
50 Richmond Centre	355	0.6
77 West Vancouver-Capilano	195	0.4

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Dropped out

What does it take to get on board the new economy? When even the job at the mill requires operating a numerically controlled, machine it suggests the bar has been raised.

Drop out of school, and career options become very limited: picking fruit, casual on-call employment, entry-level jobs. The top ten list brings together an otherwise disparate collection of ridings that range from rugged resource-driven ridings, through agricultural urban-rural fringe ridings, and on to inner city ridings.

It is perhaps surprising that the areas on the bottom of the list are only two and three times better off than the poorest performing areas topping the list.

Skool's out	Population 20 years and over, without high school graduation	Percentage of population 20 years and over without high school graduation
Canada	6,092,165	27.9
British Columbia	702,505	24.3
79 Yale-Lillooet	9,990	37.5
2 Abbotsford-Mount Lehman	13,530	35.4
58 Surrey-Green Timbers	13,175	34.9
10 Cariboo South	8,755	34.4
34 North Coast	6,090	34.0
43 Penticton-Okanagan Valley	14,790	33.9
9 Cariboo North	8,760	33.8
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	13,910	33.8
67 Vancouver-Hastings	14,840	33.6
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	14,650	33.3
. . .	. . .	. . .
36 North Vancouver-Lonsdale	6,310	16.3
45 Port Moody-Westwood	6,890	15.7
38 Oak Bay-Gordon Head	5,035	13.8
78 West Vancouver-Garibaldi	5,190	13.6
37 North Vancouver-Seymour	4,375	11.4
77 West Vancouver-Capilano	4,050	10.9
64 Vancouver-Burrard	6,030	10.2
73 Vancouver-Quilchena	3,795	9.2
65 Vancouver-Fairview	4,110	8.9
72 Vancouver-Point Grey	3,070	6.6

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Got my sheep skin

The generally affluent top ten list suggests that having the right credentials is a passport to the better neighbourhoods—or maybe that not having them is a formidable barrier. There is 20 percentage points of variation in the top ten. Note that all these ridings are in the urbanised south-west of the province.

The lower list is a little more varied in geography and density, but none are urban. Less than four percentage points of variation here suggest a floor share of professionals has been approached. Still, the substantial proportions throughout the list mean this is a group that should not be ignored.

Got my sheepskin	Population 20 years and over, with university or college diploma or degree	Percent of population 20 years and over with university or college diploma or degree
Canada	7,819,380	35.8
British Columbia	1,086,940	37.6
72 Vancouver-Point Grey	32,020	69.2
65 Vancouver-Fairview	29,935	64.5
73 Vancouver-Quilchena	25,930	63.2
64 Vancouver-Burrard	35,100	59.6
77 West Vancouver-Capilano	21,850	59.0
38 Oak Bay-Gordon Head	20,100	55.0
37 North Vancouver-Seymour	20,685	53.8
78 West Vancouver-Garibaldi	19,025	49.9
74 Victoria-Beacon Hill	20,130	49.4
45 Port Moody-Westwood	20,975	47.8
. . .	. . .	. . .
4 Bulkley Valley-Stikine	5,580	26.8
2 Abbotsford-Mount Lehman	10,150	26.6
58 Surrey-Green Timbers	9,940	26.3
34 North Coast	4,410	24.6
79 Yale-Lillooet	6,490	24.4
47 Prince George-Mount Robson	6,190	24.2
42 Peace River South	4,560	24.0
41 Peace River North	5,030	23.9
9 Cariboo North	6,040	23.3
10 Cariboo South	5,900	23.2

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Work for the man (or woman)

Most British Columbians in the workforce have an employer. For the first time, our top ten list combines ridings as diverse as Skeena/North Coast and urban/suburban tracts and they have the slimmest of differences between them.

The bottom of the list also combines strange bedfellows. Indeed, this grouping would provide a varied itinerary for an excursion around the south and central province.

The overwhelming numbers at both ends of the list mean this grouping combines just about everyone in the province.

Work for the Man (or Woman)	Employees	Percentage of all classes of worker that are employees
Canada	13,654,450	87.7
British Columbia	1,715,600	85.2
58 Surrey-Green Timbers	24,370	91.5
44 Port Coquitlam-Burke Mountain	27,530	90.4
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	24,110	90.2
33 New Westminster	26,755	90.2
68 Vancouver-Kensington	24,530	90.1
56 Skeena	14,410	90.0
62 Surrey-Whalley	21,820	89.9
59 Surrey-Newton	23,025	89.6
66 Vancouver-Fraserview	22,285	89.5
34 North Coast	12,275	89.4
. . .	. . .	. . .
14 Comox Valley	21,635	80.9
10 Cariboo South	14,200	80.6
43 Penticton-Okanagan Valley	19,610	80.3
46 Powell River-Sunshine Coast	16,305	78.2
32 Nelson-Creston	16,820	78.2
55 Shuswap	17,805	77.9
78 West Vancouver-Garibaldi	22,785	77.3
53 Saanich North and the Islands	19,865	77.3
73 Vancouver-Quilchena	20,205	75.7
77 West Vancouver-Capilano	18,210	75.4

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

I'm self-employed

Essentially this is the flip side of the above. The top ten districts have respectable numbers in the 'self-employed constituency' and the ratios are two to three times what shows up at the bottom of the list.

My own boss	Self-employed	Percentage of all classes of worker that are self-employed
Canada	1,861,195	11.9
British Columbia	291,455	14.5
77 West Vancouver-Capilano	5,950	24.6
73 Vancouver-Quilchena	6,395	24.0
53 Saanich North and the Islands	5,795	22.5
78 West Vancouver-Garibaldi	6,525	22.1
46 Powell River-Sunshine Coast	4,450	21.4
32 Nelson-Creston	4,555	21.2
55 Shuswap	4,795	21.0
43 Penticton-Okanagan Valley	4,690	19.2
14 Comox Valley	5,005	18.7
10 Cariboo South	3,240	18.4
. . .	. . .	. . .
7 Burnaby-Willingdon	2,725	10.5
34 North Coast	1,420	10.3
62 Surrey-Whalley	2,395	9.9
59 Surrey-Newton	2,530	9.9
56 Skeena	1,565	9.8
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	2,585	9.7
68 Vancouver-Kensington	2,590	9.5
44 Port Coquitlam-Burke Mountain	2,885	9.5
33 New Westminster	2,740	9.2
58 Surrey-Green Timbers	2,240	8.4

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Driven to work

For most people and for most places in the province, taking the bus is just not an option. They get to work in a vehicle as the driver or as a passenger.

The numbers column in the table is the pool of workers who answered the question. Only the portion represented in the percentage column actually drive. The differences, top to bottom, are not that great compared with other distributions we've visited. Still there are differences top and bottom. There is a noticeable urban/rural split.

Fill 'er up!	Total workers 15 years and over that get to work by car, truck or van	Percentage of workers using car, truck or van to get to work
Canada	10,853,435	80.7
British Columbia	1,396,050	82.1
2 Abbotsford-Mount Lehman	21,525	94.1
21 Fort Langley-Aldergrove	24,245	93.4
11 Chilliwack-Kent	16,735	92.9
26 Langley	23,200	92.8
49 Prince George-Omineca	16,760	92.5
48 Prince George North	16,265	92.3
28 Maple Ridge-Mission	22,610	92.2
12 Chilliwack-Sumas	17,690	92.0
57 Surrey-Cloverdale	20,290	92.0
9 Cariboo North	14,280	91.8
. . .	. . .	. . .
36 North Vancouver-Lonsdale	17,560	70.5
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	16,690	69.5
67 Vancouver-Hastings	17,525	68.0
7 Burnaby-Willingdon	15,025	67.1
75 Victoria-Hillside	15,230	65.9
72 Vancouver-Point Grey	19,175	64.6
65 Vancouver-Fairview	17,915	58.9
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	11,565	51.6
74 Victoria-Beacon Hill	11,580	51.0
64 Vancouver-Burrard	14,290	40.2

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Exact fare only

Bear in mind that again the numbers column in the table is the pool of workers and not just the transit riders.

Our top ten regions have percentages two to more than three times the provincial average, and looking closely, they are not just the bottom ten from the list above. The two Victoria ridings have been removed as they go completely green and bike or walk to work. What's left in the top ten are areas serviced to a large extent by Sky Train.

The miniscule percentages at the bottom of our list really speak to the challenges of providing service when densities, absolute numbers and climate conspire against it.

Going green	Total workers 15 years and over using public transit to get to work	Percentage of workers using public transit to get to work
Canada	1,406,585	10.5
British Columbia	128,180	7.5
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	6,340	26.4
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	5,580	24.9
7 Burnaby-Willingdon	5,395	24.1
67 Vancouver-Hastings	5,120	19.9
33 New Westminster	5,185	19.8
68 Vancouver-Kensington	4,710	19.6
5 Burnaby-Edmonds	4,445	18.8
70 Vancouver-Langara	3,470	16.5
36 North Vancouver-Lonsdale	3,995	16.0
65 Vancouver-Fairview	4,710	15.5
. . .	. . .	. . .
39 Okanagan-Vernon	150	0.7
14 Comox Valley	135	0.6
55 Shuswap	105	0.6
42 Peace River South	70	0.6
9 Cariboo North	85	0.5
16 Cowichan-Ladysmith	100	0.5
10 Cariboo South	65	0.5
4 Bulkley Valley-Stikine	50	0.4
79 Yale-Lillooet	40	0.3
13 Columbia River-Revelstoke	10	0.1

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

I'm entitled

Government transfer payments include: Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, CPP/QPP, Employment Insurance benefits, Canada Child Tax benefits and an assortment of other income from government sources. Note that retirement pensions are not included here.

We have an eclectic mix of ridings top and bottom in our list. There is not a strong geographic divide on this one. Still, there is a broad range of response with three and four times the rate in our top ten.

A government cheque	Percent of income derived from government transfer payments
Canada	11.6
British Columbia	11.8
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	24.3
43 Penticton-Okanagan Valley	23.8
79 Yale-Lillooet	21.9
55 Shuswap	20.1
30 Nanaimo	19.6
39 Okanagan-Vernon	19.3
32 Nelson-Creston	18.9
3 Alberni-Qualicum	18.2
16 Cowichan-Ladysmith	17.9
25 Kelowna-Mission	17.4
. . .	. . .
44 Port Coquitlam-Burke Mountain	8.5
48 Prince George North	8.4
41 Peace River North	8.0
64 Vancouver-Burrard	8.0
45 Port Moody-Westwood	7.3
37 North Vancouver-Seymour	6.8
73 Vancouver-Quilchena	6.4
78 West Vancouver-Garibaldi	6.4
65 Vancouver-Fairview	6.0
72 Vancouver-Point Grey	5.5

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census - Statistics Canada

Where does it all go?

Household income can be used to distinguish the poorest from the most exclusive neighbourhoods. To really delve in here, you need more information. The table to the right looks at average household income. Placement derives from both the numerator, total household income, and the denominator, number of households. Areas that have families with multiple income earners tend to rank higher than regions where singles or single income families have more presence.

Relegation to the bottom of the list can denote straitened circumstances (usually in urban environments) with pockets of singles, pensioners and the like, or rural economies that are less attached to consumerism.

Ours to spend	Average household income in 2000
Canada	$ 58,360
British Columbia	$ 57,593
73 Vancouver-Quilchena	$ 108,907
78 West Vancouver-Garibaldi	$ 100,273
77 West Vancouver-Capilano	$ 93,634
37 North Vancouver-Seymour	$ 83,510
57 Surrey-Cloverdale	$ 77,559
18 Delta South	$ 76,767
72 Vancouver-Point Grey	$ 75,017
17 Delta North	$ 72,982
61 Surrey-Tynehead	$ 71,675
21 Fort Langley-Aldergrove	$ 70,886
. . .	. . .
47 Prince George-Mount Robson	$ 48,503
39 Okanagan-Vernon	$ 48,371
55 Shuswap	$ 46,123
79 Yale-Lillooet	$ 44,898
75 Victoria-Hillside	$ 44,319
74 Victoria-Beacon Hill	$ 43,818
43 Penticton-Okanagan Valley	$ 43,739
32 Nelson-Creston	$ 43,454
30 Nanaimo	$ 41,728
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	$ 31,976

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census - Statistics Canada

Poverty it's not

Measures of low income, known as low income cut-offs (LICOs), have been with us since the 1960s. For various family sizes the average amount that Canadians spend on food, shelter and clothing is determined, and families spending 20 percent more than this amount on these items are arbitrarily defined to be in 'straitened' circumstances.

Our list topper is in a league of its own. Vancouver-Mount Pleasant includes the notorious downtown eastside that is plagued with IV drug use and the social ills that spawn from this tragedy. The remainder of our list toppers are all within a couple of points of each other. Every riding here is in the Lower Mainland.

The bottom of the list is far more eclectic and the absence of some fancy neighbourhoods speaks to the inadequacy of the LICO measure.

Getting by	Total - Population in private households	Incidence of low income in 2000 %
Canada	29,105,705	16.2
British Columbia	3,785,270	17.8
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	51,930	46.6
7 Burnaby-Willingdon	52,185	29.6
64 Vancouver-Burrard	62,300	29.3
70 Vancouver-Langara	52,495	29.3
67 Vancouver-Hastings	56,225	29.0
50 Richmond Centre	55,925	28.6
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	53,805	27.9
62 Surrey-Whalley	47,830	27.5
5 Burnaby-Edmonds	54,420	27.3
68 Vancouver-Kensington	53,490	27.0
. . .	. . .	. . .
41 Peace River North	29,750	10.6
57 Surrey-Cloverdale	48,730	10.0
40 Okanagan-Westside	40,765	9.8
54 Saanich South	48,740	9.4
18 Delta South	44,060	9.1
78 West Vancouver-Garibaldi	48,555	9.1
49 Prince George-Omineca	35,320	9.0
63 Surrey-White Rock	51,025	9.0
53 Saanich North and the Islands	49,045	8.3
21 Fort Langley-Aldergrove	55,120	7.9

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Caught in the squeeze

It is interesting to look back and forth at this table on renters, and the one following, which has owner-occupiers as its focus. The squeeze on renters comes from them not being in a position to benefit from low interest rates—unless they took the risk and jumped into the hot housing market.

The range of responses is not that great from top to bottom but this one can put a real clamp on lifestyle. Tighten a little and it hurts a lot. Remember, we also have to pay taxes and purchase food and clothing. Sometimes the money runs out first. That would suggest some ridings have widespread sensitivity to this issue as we move up the scale.

The groups at the top and bottom of the list are unlike anything we've seen before. Note that the average rent appears not to be a factor, as the range of rents in the top list is not dissimilar to that in the bottom list.

What's for dinner?	Average gross rent $	Percentage of tenant households spending 30% or more of hh income on gross rent
Canada	648	39.6
British Columbia	750	44.1
11 Chilliwack-Kent	630	56.7
30 Nanaimo	586	55.0
22 Kamloops	627	54.5
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	552	53.1
77 West Vancouver-Capilano	1,053	51.0
16 Cowichan-Ladysmith	591	50.0
55 Shuswap	576	49.6
39 Okanagan-Vernon	635	49.5
62 Surrey-Whalley	748	49.4
43 Penticton-Okanagan Valley	631	49.1
. . .	. . .	. . .
42 Peace River South	538	37.1
17 Delta North	742	36.9
59 Surrey-Newton	728	36.2
45 Port Moody-Westwood	868	36.1
65 Vancouver-Fairview	872	35.1
18 Delta South	743	34.9
54 Saanich South	770	34.8
49 Prince George-Omineca	578	33.2
4 Bulkley Valley-Stikine	522	31.6
41 Peace River North	663	29.3

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

I can afford this

There are major differences between the owners and renters. First look at the range of percentages. There is a three times difference for owners, and only two for renters, but the percentages caught in a bind are lower for owners—much lower.

Our list toppers are now all in the Lower Mainland, and, unlike renters, it appears their payment levels have much to do with their positioning.

The lower part of our list is far more widely spread around the province. Placement here can arise from, in some areas, the house value/mortgage being well below the provincial average. However, the placement of Oak Bay-Gordon Head down here reminds us of another difference between owners and renters. Renting is for life, while at some point owners get to burn their mortgage. That is if you can make all the payments. Look again at the top of our list. These are all areas that have experienced hot markets. They have lots of new owners who may have "maxed out" at historically low interest rates.

At least I own it	Average owner's major payments $	Percentage of owner households spending 30% + of hh income on owner's major pmts.
Canada	835	16.0
British Columbia	904	20.7
64 Vancouver-Burrard	1,034	33.2
59 Surrey-Newton	1,165	31.1
58 Surrey-Green Timbers	1,046	29.7
50 Richmond Centre	897	29.4
62 Surrey-Whalley	1,046	29.0
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	871	28.9
51 Richmond East	1,018	28.9
69 Vancouver-Kingsway	914	28.3
60 Surrey-Panorama Ridge	1,211	27.7
45 Port Moody-Westwood	1,166	27.5
. . .	. . .	. . .
38 Oak Bay-Gordon Head	886	14.8
42 Peace River South	686	14.7
9 Cariboo North	710	14.5
76 West Kootenay-Boundary	617	13.7
4 Bulkley Valley-Stikine	731	13.7
48 Prince George North	890	13.6
49 Prince George-Omineca	856	13.5
19 East Kootenay	699	13.1
41 Peace River North	832	12.8
56 Skeena	743	11.7

Produced by BC STATS, 2001 Census data from Statistics Canada

Pride of ownership

Owning your own home is a near universal dream, and if you live in the heart of the Lower Mainland it is more likely to be just that—a dream. How much more likely? Up to four times.

All but two ridings in the bottom of our list, reporting the lowest levels of own-home occupancy, are in the Lower Mainland. The only Lower Mainland ridings making it to the top of our list are suburban.

Also noticeable about the lower list is the wide range here—more than double. The two bottom regions should be especially sensitive to issues that galvanize renters.

What's mine is mine	Total number of occupied private dwellings	Percentage of owner-occupied private dwellings
Canada	11,562,975	65.8
British Columbia	1,534,335	66.3
40 Okanagan-Westside	18,690	85.1
21 Fort Langley-Aldergrove	19,415	83.8
57 Surrey-Cloverdale	17,010	83.6
61 Surrey-Tynehead	18,250	82.1
23 Kamloops-North Thompson	18,680	81.9
27 Malahat-Juan de Fuca	19,175	81.9
53 Saanich North and the Islands	22,345	81.1
17 Delta North	15,970	80.7
54 Saanich South	18,920	79.7
28 Maple Ridge-Mission	19,390	79.6
. . .	. . .	. . .
7 Burnaby-Willingdon	22,195	50.9
75 Victoria-Hillside	23,170	49.8
67 Vancouver-Hastings	21,525	49.3
36 North Vancouver-Lonsdale	22,580	49.2
33 New Westminster	25,600	47.7
72 Vancouver-Point Grey	27,445	44.6
74 Victoria-Beacon Hill	26,950	37.4
65 Vancouver-Fairview	29,010	36.6
64 Vancouver-Burrard	40,720	24.5
71 Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	28,350	22.7

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Infoline

April 29, 2005

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/05	% change on one year ago
BC	4,220.0	1.1
Canada	32,078.8	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2004	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	156,481	7.5
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	138,783	3.9
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	33,072	2.8
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	20,002	1.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Feb	3,599	0.8
Merchandise Exports - Feb	2,671	0.7
Retail Sales - Feb	4,104	2.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg
(all items - 1992=100)	Mar '05	% change
BC	124.1	2.2
Canada	126.5	2.1
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Mar '05	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,248	-0.4
Employed - BC	2,101	0.1
Unemployed - BC	147	-7.0
		Feb '05
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.5	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.9	7.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	April 27/05	April 28/04
Prime Business Rate	4.25	3.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.90	4.45
- 5 year	6.05	6.15
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	April 27/05	April 28/04
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.2466	1.3674
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.8004	0.7275
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Mar '05	one year ago
BC	698.01	3.0
Canada	695.39	2.6

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

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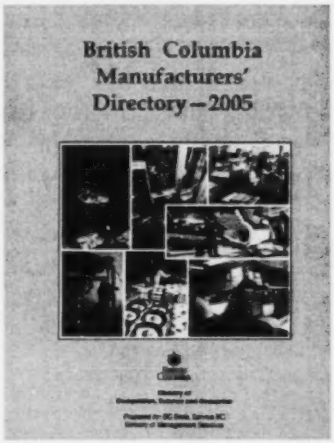

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